



BHARAT KI JEEWAN

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SOCIAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI), through its field staff members has already initiated some activities among the poor, daily migrant workers and leprosy patients who live in urban slums



and colonies in Bhubaneswar and Pipili. Among the activities which have been carried out are: distribution of cooked food among the slum dwellers, door to door health, hygiene and sanitization awareness programs and distribution of about 1500 cotton masks among these slum and colony dwellers. It has reached out to about 340 families in these slums and colonies.

The Pavitra Hrudaya Sangha (SS.CC.) Trust has also made a cash contribution towards SEVA KENDRA, Calcutta in order to respond to the needs of the poor in Kolkata area during this pandemic lockdown.

DSDI also carried out its dry food ration (rice and dal), masks and soap distribution among the persons affected by Hansen's disease (Leprosy) in

Trinath Leprosy Colony in Choudwar municipality. This colony was part of a housing project for the rehabilitation of persons affected by Hansen's disease and was built by the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts (Fr. Bill Petrie, ss.cc.) in the 1990's. There are about 55 families that are being rehabilitated in the colony. Besides housing project for their rehabilitation, DSDI has built a Damien Clinic for the treatment of wounds and ulcers of patients.



these God's people whom Damien embraced as his own and become himself one of them.

The relief work was also carried out in Shantidan Leprosy Colony in Khurda and in Gokhibaba Leprosy Colony in Bhubaneswar. We have been serving the patients of these leprosy colonies since 1979 in whatever way we have been able to in the spirit of St. Damien of Molokai - the leper priest. About 75 families were given the food ration of rice and dal (Pulse), masks and soaps. Our PMW staff member Mr. Panchanan joined us as he has been very much in the service of

- Alexis, SS.CC

COVID – 19, PLIGHTS OF THE POOR AND EASTER

The invisible 'CORONA VIRUS DISEASE 2019' (Covid-19), has brought the whole world into a standstill. COVID-19 pandemic has brought blessings to the nature but annoyance to humanity. Now-a-days from most people's mouths we hear two words like: "QUARANTINE & LOCKDOWN", even from the illiterate's lips. Still researchers and experts all over the world are working hard to bring out the vaccine to defeat the corona virus. According to government norms we need to be in home quarantine. Well done government of India for ordering complete lockdown. Yes many souls are gone but the plight of the poor is increasing. Thousands stranded in various parts of our country without having enough food. They are desperate to go back home but the second phase of lock down shut their dream to reach their home town and meet the family members.

When I was reflecting about the Covid-19 situation amidst (quarantine & lockdown) in relation to 2020 Easter it came to me that even Jesus was in quarantine for 40 days and nights (Mt. 4:2), spent in the desert praying and fasting. He too was in the Lockdown (in the tomb) for 3 days (Lk 24:21). After 3 days of lockdown **He was Risen** from the dead. Coincidentally fruits of 40 days of Lent brought Salvation to this world and I believe 40 (21+19) days of Lockdown in India will bring some relief to all Indians especially the Poor, the backbone of our country. I believe we will be soon emerge victorious from covid-19.



Serampore Pastoral community is happy to share with you the tiny charitable work that was organized on Easter Sunday. Our Church is surrounded by poor people. Knowing the situation of the poor some of our Church members, fathers and sisters contributed some cash (from Lenten sacrifice) which was used to buy some ration for 40 families. The people were happy to receive 5Kgs of Rice, 3kgs of Potatoes, 2kgs of Atta, 2kgs of Dal and 1Lt of cooking oil. Though it is little, but the poor had something for their family. Thanks to all generous donors. God Bless you all!

- **Umakant, SS.CC.**

FROM MADRID ...

Madrid. April 14th. I just read that the confinement in India will continue until May 3. Here in Spain the "state of alarm" has already been renewed and will probably be renewed several more times, in periods of 15 days, which is what the law allows. In Spain we have, in proportion to the population, the highest number of contagions and deaths from the virus in the world. But it is said, we will have to believe it, that the situation is diminishing.

My return trip to Calcutta was scheduled for today. Now I have no idea when I will be able to return. I will have to apply for a new visa. I am still "confined" in the Provincial House. In this community there are four brothers. We have prayers in the morning and evening, meetings from time to time. We have had the Holy Week celebrations in the *chapel of the house*. We have space outside to walk. Next to the house is the SSCC parish, where three brothers live. Sometimes we see each other in the garden. Before, it was usual to eat together on weekends.

The Iberian Provincial Chapter: postponed ... God knows when it will be celebrated. Anyway, strange life. Relaxed when it comes to activities. Something tense and internally divided. I was able to follow Dandadighila's celebrations on Facebook. I read the news I can about India (<https://www.aljazeera.com/> is my best source of information). And you are all present in prayer.



"Courage! God is with you! He will come to your aid if you do not allow yourself to be too downcast."

This is today's quote from the Good Mother on the Rome website.

This is where I live the confinement. The famous Real Madrid stadium, next to the house, is under renovation ... permanent noises.



- Felipe, SS.CC

THE FEAST DAY OF GOOD FATHER IN DSDI

The celebration of the feast of Good Father Marie Joseph Coudrin on the 27th of March 2020 was perhaps a very unique celebration in our world-wide Sacred Hearts family. It may not have been celebrated as normal as it used to be in any other years. Nonetheless, we were all united in spirit with one another as children of our Good Father.

Due to the COVID - 19 pandemic, Brothers and Sisters in Bhubaneswar and Ludru mission areas could not come together to celebrate the feast day as has been the tradition; however, we had our simple celebrations with Mass and Eucharistic adoration in our respective communities contemplating on the Foundational Experience of our Good Father in the Granary in La Motte d'Usseau and his experience of God's Providential Love in the "work of God" he and Good Mother carried out during the Reign of Terror in France.

Our spiritual moments of celebration of the Eucharist and Eucharistic adoration were also spent praying for all political and religious leaders for discerning wisdom like Solomon in order to make right decisions. We prayed for medical scientists for the discovery of vaccine to treat and contain the disease, and for doctors, nurses, health care-givers for their safety and protection. We also prayed for the healing of the affected patients and for those who are healthy remain protected from COVID - 19.

In the midst of a total lockdown restriction in the city of Bhubaneswar and elsewhere, our homes/communities, where we have been self – quarantined, are our own "granaries" where we are called to enter into the ministry of reparation, reconciliation and healing of humanity that is suffering today. At the same time, we also find our own "clandestine" ministries like the Good Father and our own "Molokais" like St. Damien to reach out the poor daily labourers, migrant workers, leprosy patients and school going children in urban slums, colonies and villages. May you all stay healthy and well and wishing you all a very happy Easter! Stay "Risen" with HOPE in the midst of darkness and death of COVID – 19!

- **Alexis, SS.CC.**



GOD'S GIFT TO US, HIS GLORIOUS RESURRECTION

"The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing
with the glory about to be revealed to us" (Rom 8:18)

Happy Easter to you all! We had a spirit filled Easter celebration in our Dangadighila community. This celebration of Easter in the midst of Covid-19 lockdown was profound. At this point of time there were four priest brothers in our community, Frs. Ajith, Bala, Golak and Tileswar. Each brother taking turn performed their sacred duty to enter into the spirit of the salvific act of Christ event. We all felt the effect of the Covid-19. It was a need of the hour to be with the people in our prayer. Fr. Golak presided over the Palm Sunday Mass. The liturgy began with the blessing of palms and the community entered the Chapel in procession singing hosanna to the King. He invoked the blessings to be in the Spirit of the Lord throughout the Passion Week. The Mass on Maundy Thursday was presided by Fr. Ajith. He kissed the feet after washing of feet as a sign of humility and service

with an attitude of Jesus. Taking turn one hour each we were in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to be with the Lord in his suffering and prayer. The liturgy on Good Friday officiated by Fr. Bala. He sang very devotionally while venerating the Cross. The community prayed the Stations of the Cross entering into the Lord's passion sentiments. Fr. Tileswar presided over the Vigil mass. His singing of the Easter Proclamation was great and gave a spiritual atmosphere of the night as night of the all nights.



One good thing that happened was live streaming of our Liturgy for the faithful to participate with us in this time of lockdown. Bro. Robert took the initiative and made it a great success. Spiritual preparedness was the best part of our celebration. Our Liturgy was very lively with our music and our very participation.

We have been faithful to our reparative adoration which is one of our charisms that urges us to repair our wounded world caused by human selfishness and greed. The fear of lockdown that shut the doors of the Churches, but the Spirit of the Lord opened the doors of our hearts to fill with His joy and peace. We are united in prayer with our people suffering from Covid -19 and the people on duty, namely, the police, doctors, nurses and people of good heart who become Good Samaritan to others. We had a feeling at this time was 'were not our hearts burning within us while we were singing Alleluia to the risen Lord?' Let us join in prayer for healing of our world. May the Easter blessings of peace, joy and healing make a home in our hearts.

- **Golak, SS.CC.**